

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) A process for preventing the piracy of application programs resident on a server and remotely accessed across a computer network by a client system in a computer environment, comprising the steps of:

providing a network filesystem on said client;

wherein said network filesystem handles and forwards all requests from local processes on said client that are directed at application program files located on said server;

wherein said filesystem examines each of said requests, and either grants or denies each of said requests depending on whether the request is justifiable from a security perspective by using information that includes, but is not limited to: the nature of the originating process, the history of previous access by the process, and/or the section of the targeted file being requested;

providing a network redirector component of said network filesystem; and

wherein said network redirector component makes visible to said network filesystem, a path that represents the server where said application program files are stored.

2. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein said network filesystem registers dispatch routines with the client operating system that handle common file operations such as open, read, write and close; wherein a dispatch routine examines a file request and decides whether to grant or deny said file request; and wherein if said file request is granted then said dispatch routine forwards said file request to said server and sends back said server's response to said client operating system.

3. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 1, wherein when a local process on said client makes a file request for an application program file on said server, said client operating system calls ~~one of said dispatch routines~~ a dispatch routine with said file request.

4-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Original) A program storage medium readable by a computer, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the computer to perform method steps for preventing the piracy of application programs resident on a server and remotely accessed across a computer network by a client system in a computer environment, comprising the steps of:

providing a network filesystem on said client;

wherein said network filesystem handles and forwards all requests from local processes on said client that are directed at application program files located on said server;

wherein said filesystem examines each of said requests, and either grants or denies each of said requests depending on whether the request is justifiable from a security perspective by using information that includes, but is not limited to: the nature of the originating process, the history of previous access by the process, and/or the section of the targeted file being requested;

providing a network redirector component of said network filesystem; and

wherein said network redirector component makes visible to said network filesystem, a path that represents the server where said application program files are stored.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said network filesystem registers dispatch routines with the client operating system that handle common file operations such as open, read, write and close; wherein a dispatch routine examines a file request and decides whether to grant or deny said file request; and wherein if said file request is granted then said dispatch routine forwards said file request to said server and sends back said server's response to said client operating system.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein when a local process on said client makes a file request for an application program file on said server, said client operating system calls ~~one of said dispatch routines~~ a dispatch routine with said file request.

13-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Original) A process for preventing the piracy of application programs resident on a client system in a computer environment, comprising the steps of:

providing a filesystem on said client; wherein said filesystem handles and forwards all file requests from local processes on said client;

wherein said filesystem examines each of said requests, and either grants or denies each of said requests depending on whether the request is justifiable from a security perspective by using information that includes, but is not limited to: the nature of the originating process, the history of previous access by the process, and/or the section of the targeted file being requested;

wherein said filesystem registers dispatch routines with the client operating system that handle common file operations such as open, read, write and close;

wherein a dispatch routine examines a file request and decides whether to grant or deny said file request; and

wherein if said file request is granted, then said dispatch routine allows the requested operation to proceed.

20-24. (Cancelled)

25. (Original) A program storage medium readable by a computer, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the computer to perform method steps for preventing the piracy of application programs resident on a client system in a computer environment, comprising the steps of:

providing a filesystem on said client;

wherein said filesystem handles and forwards all file requests from local processes on said client;

wherein said filesystem examines each of said requests, and either grants or denies each of said requests depending on whether the request is justifiable from a security perspective by using information that includes, but is not limited to: the nature of the

originating process, the history of previous access by the process, and/or the section of the targeted file being requested;

wherein said filesystem registers dispatch routines with the client operating system that handle common file operations such as open, read, write and close;

wherein a dispatch routine examines a file request and decides whether to grant or deny said file request; and

wherein if said file request is granted, then said dispatch routine allows the requested operation to proceed.

26-30. (Cancelled)

31. (New) A method for preventing piracy of application program files, the method comprising the computer-implemented acts of:

using a first computer to serve said application program files to a second computer for execution;

using a filtering mechanism that is associated with said second computer for filtering requests for access to said application program files; and

wherein said filtering mechanism determines whether to grant requests for access to said application program files by determining one or more criteria from a set of criteria comprising: a nature of an originating process that is making said requests for access, a history of previous requests for access made by said originating process, and a nature of a section of said application program files that is being requested.

32. (New) A method for preventing piracy of application program files, the method comprising the computer-implemented acts of:

providing information relating to one or more remote locations where said application program files are stored; and

determining whether an originating process that is making said requests for access is a trusted process, whether a history of previous requests for access made by said originating

process exhibits a pre-determined pattern of piracy, and whether a section of said application program files that is being requested is a critical section that requires protection from piracy.

33. (New) A method for preventing piracy of application program files, the method comprising the computer-implemented acts of:

providing information relating to one or more remote locations where said application program files are stored; and

using dispatch routines for examining a request for access to said application program files; and

after examining said request and if it is determined that an originating process that is making said request for access is a trusted process, or that a history of previous requests for access made by said originating process lacks a pre-determined pattern of piracy, and that a section of said application program files that is being requested is a non-critical section, then forwarding said request to a corresponding remote server that is responsible for serving said application program files.

34. (New) A method for preventing piracy of application program files, the method comprising the computer-implemented acts of:

using a filtering mechanism on a client computer for filtering requests for access to said application program files;

using a revealing mechanism to reveal to said client computer one or more remote locations on which said requested application program files are stored; and

wherein said filtering mechanism determines whether to grant requests for access to said application program files by determining one or more criteria from a set of criteria comprising: a nature of an originating process that is making said requests for access, a history of previous requests for access made by said originating process, and a nature of a section of said application program files that is being requested.

35. (New) A system for preventing piracy of application program files, the system comprising:

a processing device for processing a request for access to said application program files stored on at least one server system that is remote from said processing device;

a redirector component that is associated with said processing device for informing said processing device of one or more locations in which said application program files are stored; and

wherein said processing device comprises a component that determines whether to grant requests for access to said application program files based on: whether an originating process that is making said requests for access is a trusted process, whether a history of previous requests for access made by said originating process exhibits a pre-determined pattern of piracy, and whether a section of said application program files that is being requested is a critical section that requires protection from piracy.

36. (New) A system for preventing piracy of application program files, the system comprising:

a processing means for processing requests for access to said application program files stored remotely from said processing means;

a redirection means for revealing one or more locations in which said application program files are stored; and

wherein said processing means includes a determination means for determining whether to grant requests for access to said application program files based on: whether an originating process that is making said requests for access is a trusted process, whether a history of previous requests for access made by said originating process exhibits a pre-determined pattern of piracy, and whether a section of said application program files that is being requested is a critical section that requires protection from piracy.

37. (New) A system for preventing piracy of application program files, the system comprising:

a filtering means for filtering requests for access to said application program files stored remotely from said filtering means;

a redirection means for revealing one or more locations in which said requested application program files are stored; and

wherein said filtering means includes an evaluation means for evaluating: an originating process that is making said requests for access, a history of previous requests for access made by said originating process, and a section of said application program files that is being requested.

38. (New) One or more propagated data signals collectively conveying data that causes a computing system to perform a method for preventing piracy of application program files, the method comprising:

providing information relating to one or more remote locations where said application program files are stored; and

determining whether an originating process that is making said requests for access is a trusted process, whether a history of previous requests for access made by said originating process exhibits a pre-determined pattern of piracy, and whether a section of said application program files that is being requested is a critical section that requires protection from piracy.

39. (New) One or more propagated data signals collectively conveying data that causes a computing system to perform a method for preventing piracy of application program files, the method comprising:

providing information relating to one or more remote locations where said application program files are stored; and

using dispatch routines for examining a request for access to said application program files; and

after examining said request and if it is determined that an originating process that is making said request for access is a trusted process, and that a history of previous requests for access made by said originating process lacks a pre-determined pattern of piracy, and that a

section of said application program files that is being requested is a non-critical section, then forwarding said request to a corresponding remote server that is responsible for serving said application program files.

40. (New) A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions for preventing piracy of application program files in a computer system, wherein execution of the one or more sequences of instructions by one or more processors causes the one or more processors to perform:

providing information relating to one or more remote locations where said application program files are stored; and

determining whether an originating process that is making said requests for access is a trusted process, whether a history of previous requests for access made by said originating process exhibits a pre-determined pattern of piracy, and whether a section of said application program files that is being requested is a critical section that requires protection from piracy.

41. (New) A system for preventing piracy of application program files, the system comprising:

a means for providing location information to a local computing system of said application program files that are stored on one or more remote locations;

a means for examining requests for access to said application program files;

a means for determining whether said requests can be granted based on whether an originating process that is making said requests for access is a trusted process, whether a history of previous requests for access made by said originating process exhibits a pre-determined pattern of piracy, and whether a section of said application program files that is being requested is a critical section that requires protection from piracy; and

if said requests are granted then forwarding said requests to a corresponding server that is responsible for serving said application program files.

42. (New) A method for preventing piracy of application program files, the method comprising the computer-implemented acts of:

providing information relating to one or more remote locations where said application program files are stored;

receiving a request from a computer process for access to said application program files;

determining if said computer process that is making said request for access is a trusted process; and

if said computer process is a trusted process, then forwarding said request to a corresponding remote server that is responsible for serving said application program files.

43. (New) A method for preventing piracy of application program files, the method comprising the computer-implemented acts of:

providing information relating to one or more remote locations where said application program files are stored;

receiving a request from a computer process for access to said application program files;

determining if a history of previous requests for access made by said computer process lacks a pre-determined pattern of piracy; and

if history of previous requests of said computer process lacks a pre-determined pattern of piracy, then forwarding said request to a corresponding remote server that is responsible for serving said application program files.

44. (New) A method for preventing piracy of application program files, the method comprising the computer-implemented acts of:

providing information relating to one or more remote locations where said application program files are stored;

receiving a request from a computer process for access to a section of said application program files;

determining if said section that is being requested is a non-critical section; and
if said section is a non-critical section, then forwarding said request to a
corresponding remote server that is responsible for serving said application program files.